

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Background of the study**

To know about literature, people especially students need to know the differences between literature and literary study. Literature is the creativity to create literary works by using all kinds of the estetic and literary study is the science or knowledge which focuses on literature, (Suroso & Santoso, 2009: 1-2). To master the literature people need to learn about the literary theory where essentially, theory is the process of understanding what the nature of literature is, what functions it has, what the relation of text is to author, to reader, to language, to society, to history. It is not judgment but understanding of the frames of judgment, although it is not to say that theories are not rooted in politics or particular worldviews. To master literature is not easy and it can be learned easier by reading many kinds of literary works. Literary works which are able to be analyzed consist of many items such as poem, film, novel, drama, songs etc. There are literary review within, and there can be analyzed by using many kinds of analysis. One of literary works is film which consists of dialogues, actors, producers and other film stuff on a wide screen cinema.

The different of film and drama or novel is; film uses a cinematography and casting within even sometimes novel and drama use

casting either. From the above literary works, the writer tries to focus on the film analysis. The film is “*Freedom Writers*” by Richard LaGravenese.

Richard LaGravenese the director of the *Freedom Writers* was born in Brooklyn, New York he is the son of a taxi driver. He graduated from New York University Tisch School of the Arts, Experimental Theatre Program. He currently lives in Manhattan, NY on Central Park West with his daughter Lily and wife Ann. While *The Freedom Writers* is a 2007 drama film starring Hilary Swank, Scott Glenn, Imelda Staunton and Patrick Dempsey. It is based on the book *The Freedom Writers Diary* by teacher Erin Gruwell who wrote the story based on Woodrow Wilson Classical High School in Long Beach, California. The title is a play on both the terms of "Freedom Riders", the black and white civil rights activists who tested the U.S. Supreme Court decision ordering the desegregation of interstate buses in 1961, and Freedom Fighters, as in somebody who fights for freedom. The idea for the film came from journalist Tracey Durning, who made a documentary about Erin Gruwell for the ABC News program Primetime Live. Durning served as co-executive producer of the film.

While the *Freedom Writers* itself the storyline takes place between 1992-1995, beginning with scenes from the 1992 Los Angeles Riots. It then says that there were 120 murders in Long Beach since the riots. Erin Gruwell, a new, excited schoolteacher who leaves the safety of her hometown, Newport Beach, to teach at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach, where a new integration program puts students of all

backgrounds and races in classes together. Her enthusiasm quickly dwindles away when she realizes that her class (all at-risk students, also known as "unteachables") are not the happy-go-lucky eager students she was expecting. They must be forced into class by security guards and segregate themselves into racial groups in the classroom. The tension is apparent every time students from one race look at those from another. Not only does she meet opposition from her students, she also has a hard time with her department head, who believes she should focus less on teaching her students to learn and read, and more on teaching them discipline and obedience.

At school, Gruwell intercepts a racist drawing of one of her students and uses it to teach them about the Holocaust. She gradually begins to earn their trust and buys them composition books to record their diaries, in which they talk about their experiences of being abused, seeing their friends die, and being evicted. Determined to reform her students, she takes two part-time jobs to pay for more books and spends more time at school, to the disappointment of her husband. Her students start to behave with respect and learn more. A transformation is especially visible in one of her students, Marcus. She invites several Holocaust survivors to talk with her class about their experiences and takes them on a field trip to the Museum of Tolerance. Meanwhile, her unorthodox teaching methods are scorned by her colleagues and department chair Margaret Campbell. The next year comes, and Gruwell teaches her class again for sophomore year. Then finally her husband

divorces her and Margaret tells her she cannot teach her kids for their junior year. She fights this decision, eventually convincing the superintendent to allow her to teach her kids' junior and senior year. The film ends with a note that Gruwell successfully brought many of her students to graduation and college.

From the background above, the writer is interested in analyzing the film because first, the film is taken from the real story of Erin Gruwell the teacher of room 203 and the film makes a deep impact on that school. The second reason is that the film also able to give a great impact on the audience, because it can touch the audience's sense and feeling. The third reason, the film shows the biggest power of woman in an education side and this is suitable with the writer's spirit in analyzing the film. The last reason is that the film created by the different creator with the novel. The film created by Richard Lagraves and the novel by Erin Gruwell itself, but both have the same purposes and the same characters that are able to make the film into the real situation. So the writer tries to make an analysis entitled “*Creative Effort of Erin Gruwell in Richard Lagraves's The Freedom Writers Movie (2007) A Psychological Approach*” the film makes the researcher be interested in Erin Gruwell's experience in the way she makes a decision to gather her students and escape from the problems from the student and the teacher.

## B. Literature Review

The writer uses the review as a guideline of her research, the analysis by Kuku aditya, Sebelas Maret University (2009), entitled “The Power to Change of the major character “Erin Grewell in Richard Lagravenese’ movie *Freedom Writers*: Feminism Approach.” His research is descriptive research which also explains about women’s side. But here, he explains about the Cultural Feminism, Cultural feminists can sometimes come up with notions that sound disturbingly Victorian and non-progressive: that women are inherently (biologically) "kinder and gentler" than men and so on. All of the anxieties views from women’s side. Erin Gruwell is a kind woman, but she has a great power to change something, in this case, to change her anarchy students into a better student.

The second review is done by Handoko rudianto (2008) Sebelas Maret University, entitle “The ego within the anxiety of Erin Grewell in Richard Lagravenese’ movie *Freedom Writers*: Psychoanalysis Approach”. The research also uses descriptive research that is observig the work by collecting data from the script and the movie. Here Handoko explains about the anxiety of the major character such the moral anxiety, neurotic anxiety and realistic anxiety, and the conclusion is, the film using a lot of moral anxiety, because it has its original in the conflict between the ego and superego. The ego is threatened by punishment from the superego, the ensuing emotional response.

So from the both analyses above, the researcher tries to make a different analysis. Here the researcher focuses the analysis on the creative power related with individual psychology. The title of the study is “*Creative Effort of Erin Gruwell in Richard Lagravesse’s The Freedom Writers Movie (2007) A Psychological Approach*”

### **C. Problem Statement**

The main problem of this research will be, “How is the creative effort of the major character Erin Gruwell, in changing her students related with Adler’s theory individual psychology?”

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

To carry out the study, the researcher will limit the study; the researcher tries to focus on the creative effort of Erin Gruwell in changing her students.

### **E. Object of the Study**

Based on the above problem statement, the objectives of the study will be:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the movie
2. To discuss creative effort of Erin Gruwell viewed from individual psychology perspective

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of this study are as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

To give information and knowledge to the reader, especially the literary study on Richard Lagravenesse's *The Freedom Writers* Movie.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

To get better understanding of the movie, in literary field as references to other researchers in analyzing the movie especially based on Adler's theory a Individual Psychology approach.

## **G. Research Method**

In analyzing the study, the writer will apply qualitative method:

### **1. Object of the Study**

Object of the study will be Erin Gruwell in *The Freedom Writers* Movie.

### **2. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

The data will be classified into two categories, primary data and secondary data. The primary data will be taken from movie it self (the script and the film) while the secondary data are taken from the other data, which have relation with the research, the underlying theory and other materials concerning, to the analysis.

### 3. Type of the Study

This study will belong to qualitative research, which refers to research based on qualitative data taken from the movie. Descriptive qualitative research is the research employing the method of collecting, describing, classifying and analyzing the data and then drawing conclusion. So it is taken from *The Freedom Writers* Movie directed by Richard LaGravenesse's.

### 4. Technique of the Data Collection

The method will be used by the researcher for collecting the data is library research, the techniques are as follows:

#### a. Documentation

- 1) Watching the movie several times, until the writer gets an adequate information or data to be analyzed
- 2) Reading some other resources related to the movie such as the movie script or the movie synopsis
- 3) Taking notes for the important parts both in primary and secondary sources in data cards

#### b. Taking pictures

- 1) Taking several movie pictures related with the personality theory.
- 2) Write down the data (dialogues) within the film

#### c. Classifying the data into categories and develop them into a good unit.



## 5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In this thesis the technique that will be used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis technique. The writer will describe the structural elements of the movie such as character and characterization, plot, cast, cinematography etc and describe the movie by using Adler's an individual Psychological Analysis element. The collected data will be interpreted and analyzed in detail through a psychological approach in this case by showing the creative effort of Erin Gruwell in *Freedom Writers* movie, then drawing conclusion based on the analysis.

## H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper will be divided into five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction, covering background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II will be underlying theory, covering notion of individual psychological theory, the structure of personality, and theoretical application. Chapter III will be structural analysis, which includes the character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, theme, style and cinematography. Chapter IV will be an individual psychology analysis of the movie, it present the application of underlying theory in analyzing the problem. Chapter V will present conclusion and suggestion for this research paper also the synopsis of the story.